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No. 2

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION SOCIETY

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# AGUINALDO

A SELECTION FROM HIS OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

TOGETHER WITH

THE AUTHORIZED ACCOUNTS OF THE  
ALLEGED "SPANISH BRIBE"

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## II.

### FIRST SERIES

DECEMBER 25, 1900

This circular may be obtained  
by application to L. K. Fuller,  
12 Otis Place, Boston, Mass.

**T**HE Philippine Information Society is preparing a series of publications in pursuance of the purpose for which the Society was formed, that, namely, of placing within reach of the American people the most reliable and authoritative evidence attainable in regard to the people of the Philippine Islands and our relations to them.

The whole of the evidence, even the whole of the official evidence, is more voluminous than a busy people can be expected to read. Some selection on our part has, therefore, been a necessary condition of the accomplishing of our object. This selection by us, has, however, been confined so far as possible to the choosing of subjects to be dealt with. Upon each subject chosen we have given in some cases all the evidence obtainable, in all other cases as much of the evidence as the setting of reasonable limits to the length of these publications would permit, and ample references to the remainder. In these cases we have endeavored to include the evidence that is most authoritative and important.

If those of whatever shade of opinion who find our mediation unsatisfactory, or who are not convinced of our success in getting the whole story, will appeal from us to the original sources of information, our object of promoting a knowledge of the facts will be only the more effectively secured. We shall be grateful for any criticism or information convicting us of the omission of any important evidence, or of any appearance of unfairness in the presentation of evidence, and will endeavor to profit thereby in future editions.

The subject of the present series of papers has seemed to us as important as any that could be selected. It comprises the principal episodes in the history of our relation to the Filipinos, chiefly as that history is contained in our state papers. We have been careful to include the evidence which tells of the Filipinos' share in that history, as well as our own. Whatever view one may hold as to the proper policy for us to pursue toward the Filipinos, it is evident that no policy can be intelligently chosen nor successfully carried out unless it is based upon an understanding of these people, and of their present attitude toward us, and toward the question of our relation to them. It is hoped that the account we shall offer of the development of that attitude may prove a help toward such an understanding.

6-21-28

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Worcester  
Philippine Coll.

## THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION SOCIETY.

### OUTLINE OF FIRST SERIES.

#### THE STORY OF THE FILIPINOS no. 2

AS TOLD IN UNITED STATES DOCUMENTS AND OTHER AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

I. José Rizal, the Filipino Patriot: together with an account of the Insurgent Movement of 1896.

II. Aguinaldo: a Selection from his Official Documents, together with the Authorized Accounts of the alleged "Spanish Bribe."

III. The Insurgent Government of 1898.

IV. Our Relations with the Insurgents prior to the Fall of Manila, August, 1898.

V. Aguinaldo and the American Generals, August, 1898, to January, 1899.

VI. Iloilo: An episode of January, 1899, and Incidents leading up to the Outbreak of Hostilities.

VII. Outbreak of Hostilities, February 4, 1899, and Efforts to secure an Armistice.

VIII. Efforts at Recognition, October and November, 1899.

IX. Present Condition and Attitude.

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NOTE. It will be impossible to bring out the circulars in their chronological order owing to the difficulty and delay in securing certain of the necessary official documents, some of which, indeed, are not yet in our hands. Every effort will be made, however, consistent with thoroughness and accuracy, to issue them as soon as possible.

## OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS OF THE TREATY OF BIAC-NA-BATO.

[Emilio Aguinaldo was born March 22, 1869, at Cavite, Viejo. He was educated at the country schools of his town. He was in business until his twenty-fifth year, when he was elected Mayor of Cavite. In 1896 he was the prime leader of the insurrection against Spain. December 24, 1897, peace was established between Spain and the insurgent forces by the treaty of Biac-na-Bato, one of the conditions of the treaty being that Aguinaldo and his chief followers should leave the Philippines. In May, 1898, Aguinaldo returned to Cavite to become the leader of the revolutionary forces.]

Unauthentic statements concerning the character and ability of Aguinaldo have been made so constantly by the press and by public speakers that it seems desirable to put before the public, on this subject, some evidence of a more trustworthy sort, taken from United States official documents. Under such an impartial light, it is proposed to examine some of the acts of Aguinaldo that have been oftenest called in question, for example, his acceptance of the Treaty of Biac-na-Bato. Among our government papers, at present available, the only accounts of this treaty are to be found in Senate Document 62, 3d Session, 55th Congress, ordered printed January 13, 1899, containing the Treaty with Spain, and the evidence submitted to the treaty commissioners; and in the Report of the Philippine Commission appointed January 20, 1899, with Jacob G. Schurman as its president, who reported on January 31, 1900.

With the exception of the detailed defense of Aguinaldo by Señor Agoncillo (to be found on pages 230 and 231 of Senate Document 62), which might be thought prejudiced, all the accounts of the treaty in the above documents are reproduced below verbatim. Paragraphs not immediately connected with the subject are summarized in small type, and in no case alter the sense of the quotations.

[REPORT OF THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION, Pages 170 and 171.]

### “TREATY OF BIAC-NA-BATO.”

“This celebrated treaty was signed December 14, 1897. At that time nearly all the Filipino forces from Cavite, Bulacan, and elsewhere, were concentrated at Biac-na-Bato. There were a great many soldiers there, but they were badly armed. They had only about eight hundred small arms consisting of rifles, shotguns, and also a few cannon

of antiquated models. Very exaggerated notions of this force were current among the Spanish troops. The idea circulated that it would require one hundred thousand men to take the position. So the Governor-General, Primo de Rivera, concluded that it would be better to resort to the use of money. It was agreed by Governor-General Primo de Rivera that certain concessions should be made by the Spaniards, among which were representation in the Cortez of Spain, the sending away of the friars — which was the principal question — the right of association, and a free press.

“Primo de Rivera stated that he had authority from Madrid to give two million dollars, Mexican, if necessary, in order to bring about a cessation of hostilities; the amount agreed upon, however, as acceptable to the Filipinos, was one million two hundred thousand dollars. This money was to be paid when Aguinaldo and his cabinet and his leading officers arrived in Hong Kong. No definite time was fixed during which these men were to remain away from the Philippines; and if the promises made by Spain were not fulfilled they had the right to return.

“It appears that Paterno, who served as mediator, only offered Aguinaldo four hundred thousand dollars. Two hundred thousand\* dollars was paid to Aguinaldo when he arrived in Hong Kong. The balance of the money was to be paid when the Filipinos had delivered up their arms. The whole arrangement was not acceptable to the people. They were angry because a matter of business had been made of the revolution, and they had no confidence in the Spaniards.

“As a matter of fact these promises were never carried out. The civil guard began to whip and to shoot and abuse the people as before; and it is stated that in the province of Manila more than two hundred men were executed.”

[SENATE DOCUMENT 62, PAGES 337, 338.]

*Letter of the Consul-General of the United States at Hong Kong to J. B. Moore, Acting Secretary, Department of State, Washington.*

“No. 63.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HONG KONG, July 18, 1898.

“SIR: [Summary of omitted paragraphs: Spain cannot regain the Philippines. Superior character of Filipino leaders. Their object in fighting.]

\* According to other authorities, \$400,000. See below.

"There has been a systematic attempt to blacken the name of Aguinaldo and his cabinet, on account of the questionable terms of their surrender to Spanish forces a year ago this month. It has been said that they sold their country for gold, but this has been conclusively disproved, not only by their own statements but by the speech of the late Governor General Rivera in the Spanish Senate, June 11th, 1898. He said that Aguinaldo undertook to submit if the Spanish Government would give a certain sum to the widows and orphans of the insurgents. He then admits that only a tenth part of this sum was ever given to Aguinaldo, and that the other promises made he did not find it expedient to keep.

"I was in Hong Kong September, 1897, when Aguinaldo and his leaders arrived under contract with the Spanish Government. They waited until the first of November for the payment of the promised money and the fulfilment of the promised reforms. Only \$400,000 Mexican was ever placed to their credit in the banks.

[*Summary of omissions : Interviews with insurgent delegations.*]

"Immediately on the arrival of Aguinaldo at Cavite he issued a proclamation, which I had outlined for him before he left, forbidding pillage, and making it a criminal offence to maltreat neutrals. He, of course, organized a government of which he was dictator, an absolutely necessary step if he hoped to maintain control over the natives; and from that date until the present time he has been uninterruptedly successful in the field, and dignified and just as the head of his government. According to his own statements to me by letter, he has been approached by both the Spaniards and the Germans, and has had tempting offers made to him by the Catholic Church. He has been watched very closely by Admiral Dewey, Consul Williams, and his own junta here in Hong Kong, and nothing of moment has occurred which would lead any one to believe that he was not carrying out to the letter the promises made to me in this consulate.

"The insurgents are fighting for freedom from the Spanish rule, and rely upon the well-known sense of justice that controls all actions of our government as to their future.

"In conclusion, I wish to put myself on record as stating that the insurgent government of the Philippine Islands cannot be dealt with as though they were North American Indians, willing to be removed from one reservation to another at the whim of their masters. If the United States decides not to retain the Philippine Islands, its ten

million people will demand independence, and the attempt of any foreign nation to obtain territory or coaling stations will be resisted with the same spirit with which they fought the Spaniards.

I have the honor, etc.,

ROUNSEVELLE WILDMAN,  
*Consul-General."*

[SENATE DOCUMENT 62, PAGE 328.]

*Letter of the United States Consul at Manila to William R. Day,  
Secretary of State, Washington.*

"Special.]

U. S. S. BALTIMORE,  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,  
MANILA BAY, OFF CAVITE.

MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, May 24, 1898.

"SIR: [Summary of omitted paragraphs: Increased strength of insurgents. Their supply of ammunition.]

"To-day I have executed a power of attorney whereby General Aguinaldo releases to his attorneys in fact \$400,000, now in bank in Hong Kong, so that money therefrom can pay for 3,000 stand of arms bought there and expected here to-morrow.

[37,000 insurgents ready to aid U. S. forces.]

I am, Sir, OSCAR F. WILLIAMS,  
*United States Consul."*

[SENATE DOCUMENT 62, PAGE 421.]

*From "Memoranda concerning the situation in the Philippines on Aug. 30, 1898, by F. V. Greene, Major-General Volunteers, and accompanying papers."*

[Presented to the Treaty Commissioners by General Merritt.]

"In August, 1896, an insurrection broke out in Cavite under the leadership of Emilio Aguinaldo, and soon spread to other provinces on both sides of Manila. It continued with varying successes on both sides, and the trial and execution of numerous insurgents, until December, 1897, when the Governor-General, Primo de Rivera, entered into written agreement with Aguinaldo, the substance of the document, which is in possession of Senor Felipe Agoncillo, who accompanies me to Washington, being attached hereto, and marked A. In brief, it required that Aguinaldo and the other insurgent leaders should leave the country, the Government agreeing to pay them eight hundred

thousand dollars in silver and promising to introduce numerous reforms, including representation in the Spanish Cortez, freedom of the press, general amnesty for all insurgents, and the expulsion or secularization of the monastic orders.

"Aguinaldo and his associates went to Hong Kong and Singapore. A portion of the money, four hundred thousand dollars, was deposited in banks at Hong Kong, and a lawsuit soon arose between Aguinaldo and one of his subordinate chiefs named Artacho, which is interesting on account of the very honorable position taken by Aguinaldo. Artacho sued for a division of the money among the insurgents according to rank. Aguinaldo claimed that the money was a trust fund, and was to remain on deposit until it was seen whether the Spaniards would carry out their promised reforms, and if they failed to do so, it was to be used to defray the expenses of a new insurrection. The suit was settled out of court by paying Artacho \$5,000.

"No steps have been taken to introduce the reforms, more than two thousand insurgents, who had been deported to Fernando Po and other places, are still in confinement, and Aguinaldo is now using the money to carry on the operations of the present insurrection."

[SENATE DOCUMENT 62, PAGE 462.]

*From "Statement of Mr. John Foreman,\* October 8, 1898, before the United States Peace Commission at Paris."*

"They [the Spaniards] said, 'The Cubans have laid down their arms, and everything is quiet; why should we do anything more; we have accomplished what we wanted.' He [Martinez Campos] said, 'I have given my word of honor; my personal honor is affected.' But they said, 'Oh, you have fallen out of power, and you will never come in again. It is a very good trick. You have got each one to lay down his arms and go to his house, and now let the reforms go; never mind the engagement.' They had done the same with the treaty or agreement of Biac-na-Bato made with Emilio Aguinaldo, the rebel general. They paid, of course, the first instalment, which had to be paid simultaneously with the exile of Aguinaldo and the thirty-two rebel leaders, and which was deposited in the Shanghai bank, but they paid no more. One of the conditions was that the families and others connected with the rebellion should not be molested in any form or sense whatever; but

\* Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, author of "The Philippine Islands," etc.

immediately that Aguinaldo left for Hong Kong the priests started to persecute those left behind, and the result was that another chief turned up — I knew his father well — Alejandrino. He had fled, but returned, and is one of the leaders now."

[The above quotations tend to show: 1. That the \$400,000 was accepted by Aguinaldo as a guarantee of good faith on the part of the Spanish Government that certain reforms should be accorded the Filipinos; 2. That the money was at once deposited in bank with the understanding that it was to be spent for the Filipino cause in the event of the non-fulfilment of the promises made by the Spanish Government; 3. That the reforms not being carried out, the money was spent, as intended, for the Filipino cause; and 4. That since Spain refused to fulfil her half of the contract, Aguinaldo, in returning to the Philippine Islands, was guilty of no breach of faith.]

#### AGUINALDO'S POLICY.

April 24, 1898, an interview occurred between Aguinaldo and E. S. Pratt, United States Consul-General at Singapore. In this interview Mr. Pratt says (Senate Document 62, page 342) that he learned "from General Aguinaldo the state of and object sought to be obtained by the present insurrection movement," but does not, in this letter, state details. On May 5, 1898, Mr. Pratt writes to William R. Day, Secretary of State (letter to be found on page 343 of Senate Document 62) that this interview, which he had "endeavored so hard to prevent being disclosed," was "in substance made public in yesterday's edition of the Singapore Free Press, from the enclosed copy of which," etc. "The facts" he says, "are in the main, correctly given." The enclosed article contains (page 345) the statement of Aguinaldo's policy, which is reprinted below. The date of the statement, it will be observed above, is April 24, two days before the war was declared between Spain and America, and also before Aguinaldo's return to the Philippines to renew his leadership of the revolt against Spain.

"General Aguinaldo's policy embraces the independence of the Philippines, whose internal affairs would be controlled under European and American advisers. American protection would be desirable temporarily, on the same lines as that which might be instituted hereafter in Cuba. The ports of the Philippines would be free to the trade of the world, safeguards being enacted against an influx of Chinese aliens who would compete with the industrial population of the country. There would be a complete reform of the present corrupt judicature of the country under experienced European law

officers. Entire freedom of the press would be established, as well as the right of public meeting. There would be general religious toleration, and steps would be taken for the abolition and expulsion of the tyrannical religious fraternities who have laid such strong hands on every branch of civil administration. Full provision would be given for the exploitation of the natural resources and wealth of the country by roads and railways, and by the removal of hindrances to enterprise and investment of capital. Spanish officials would be removed to a place of safety until opportunity offered to return them to Spain. The preservation of public safety and order, and the checking of reprisals against Spaniards would, naturally, have to be the first care of the government in the new state of things."

[The following statement by Brigadier-General Anderson, in command of the first expeditionary land force from the United States to the Philippines, is made on page 277 of the North American Review for February, 1900. While not a quotation from a government document, it is inserted here on account of the high official position of its author:

"Aguinaldo asked, if we, the North Americans, as he calls us, intended to hold the Philippines as dependencies. I said I could not answer that, but that he could trust the honor of the United States; in one hundred and twenty years we had established no colonies. He then made this remarkable statement, 'I have studied attentively the Constitution of the United States, and I find in it no authority for colonies, and I have no fear.'"]

#### SOME OFFICIAL PAPERS OF AGUINALDO.

The great amount of conflicting evidence already before the public as to Aguinaldo's ability to govern the Philippines makes it impossible to take up this question at present, further than to offer the following official translations of letters and proclamations by him and his advisers. They are taken from the government sources already given and from Senate Document 208, 56th Congress, 1st session, ordered printed March 5, 1900.

[SENATE DOCUMENT 62, PAGE 346.]

"*America's Allies—The Manifesto of the Filipinos.*

"The following is a translation from the Spanish of a proclamation of the rebel leaders in Hong Kong, sent over to the Philippines in advance of the American squadron.

"Compatriots: Divine Providence is about to place independence within our reach, and in a way the most free and independent nation could hardly wish for.

"The Americans, not from mercenary motives, but for the sake of humanity and the lamentations of so many persecuted people, have considered it opportune to extend their protecting mantle to our beloved country, now that they have been obliged to sever relations with Spain, owing to the tyranny this nation is exercising in Cuba, causing enormous injury to the Americans, who have such large commercial and other interests there.

- [Summary of omitted paragraphs: Do not fire on Americans, but on the Spaniards, who have sacrificed us on all occasions.]

"Take note, the Americans will attack by sea and prevent any reinforcements coming from Spain; therefore we insurgents must attack by land. Probably you will have more than sufficient arms, because the Americans have arms, and will find means to assist you.

"There, where you see the American flag flying, assemble in numbers; they are our redeemers.

"Our unworthy names are nothing; but one and all of us invoke the name of the greatest patriot our country has seen, in the sure and certain hope that his spirit will be with us in these moments and guide us to victory,—our immortal José Rizal."

[SENATE DOCUMENT 62, PAGE 431.]

*"Proclamation of General Aguinaldo, May 24, 1898.*

"**FILIPINOS:** The great nation North America, cradle of true liberty, and friendly on that account to the liberty of our people, oppressed and subjugated by the tyranny and despotism of those who have governed us, has come to manifest even here a protection which is decisive as well as disinterested toward us, considering us endowed with sufficient civilization to govern by ourselves this our unhappy land. To maintain this so lofty idea, which we deserve from the now very powerful nation, North America, it is our duty to detest all those acts which belie such an idea, as pillage, robbery, and every class of injury to persons as well as things. With a view to avoiding international conflicts during the period of our campaign, I order as follows:

"**Article I.** The lives and property of all foreigners, including Chinese and all Spaniards, who either directly or indirectly have joined in taking arms against us, are to be respected.

"**Article II.** The lives and property of all who lay down their arms are also to be respected.

"**Article III.** Also are to be respected all sanitary establishments and ambulances, and likewise the persons and things which may be

found in either one or the other, including the assistants in this service, unless they show hostility.

*"Article IV.* Those who disobey what is prescribed in the preceding articles will be tried by summary court and put to death, if such disobedience shall cause assassination, fire, robbery, and violation.

"Given at Cavite the 24th of May, 1898.

EMILIO AGUINALDO."

[FROM SENATE DOCUMENT 62, PAGE 360.]

"CAVITE, June 10, 1898.

*"To the President of the Republic of the Great North American Nation.*

"DEAR AND HONORED SIR,— I come to greet you with the most tender effusion of my soul, and to express to you my deep and sincere gratitude, in the name of the unfortunate Philippine people, for the efficient and disinterested protection which you have decided to give it, to shake off the yoke of the cruel and corrupt Spanish domination, as you are doing to the equally unfortunate Cuba, which Spain wishes to see annihilated rather than free and independent, giving her, to quiet her and to cicatrize the deep wounds made in her heart by the iniquities committed upon her children, a false autonomy, of which one bold blow of the Governor General may deprive her immediately, as she has no colonial army to serve as a counterpoise to the almost sovereign powers of that supreme authority.

"At the same time, as I am always frank and open, I must express to you the great sorrow which all of us Filipinos felt on reading in the Times, a newspaper of the greatest circulation and reputation in the whole world, in its issue of the fifth of last month, the astounding statement that you, sir, will retain these islands until the end of the war, and, if Spain fails to pay the indemnity, will sell them to a European power, preferably Great Britain. But we found a palliative to our sorrows in the improbability and suddenness of that statement, as common sense refuses to believe that so sensible a public man as you would venture to make an assertion so contrary to common sense, before events are entirely consummated, as you well know that if God favors the triumph of your arms to-day, to-morrow he may defeat them and give the victory to Spain, and because such an assertion is not consistent with the protection of which you make a boast toward this unfortunate people, which has been groaning for more than three centuries in the clutches of a nation which has for its shield (emblem) the lion, one of the ferocious animals, although she displays it as an

emblem of nobility, which she certainly does not possess, besides the fact that it is opposed to your noble and generous sentiments to wish to sell these islands to a European power such as England, thereby making us pass under the domination of that nation, which, although it has a truly liberal government, partakes none the less of the nature of a tyranny that is monarchical.

"Oh, sir, you are greatly injured by this statement, which ought to be regarded merely as a diplomatic trick invented by the friends of Spain to induce us to help her by using this vile slander which has been hurled against you to arouse our hostility to that powerful nation over whose destinies you happily preside.

"The Philippine people, however, have not given credit to that awkwardly invented fable, and have seen in your nation, ever since your fleet destroyed in a moment the Spanish fleet which was here, in spite of its being assisted by the guns of their two forts, the angel who is the harbinger of their liberty; and they rose like a single wave when, as soon as I trod these shores, I addressed them to gain them over; and they captured within the period of ten days, nearly the whole garrison of this Province of Cavite, in whose port I have my government—by the consent of the admiral of your triumphant fleet—as well as the garrison of the adjoining province of Bataan, together with the governors and officials of both provinces; and my valiant hosts are now besieging Manila, the capital, on the south and east, while my force in the province of Bulacan, which adjoins this province on the north, and the chief town of which is likewise being besieged by them, nearly surround Manila on the north.

"Such is the astonishing triumph which this suffering people has gained in a few days over the conquering race whose traditional valor, of which it is continually bragging, has been humbled on these battle fields and has been succeeded by a great terror; and a people of such warlike qualities, which is, moreover, thoroughly civilized, as nearly two-thirds of them can read and write, and as they have in their midst many men of high attainments in the sciences and arts, should not be sold as if it were a lamb to be sacrificed and exploited for the greed of another nation.

"I close by protesting once and a thousand times, in the name of this people, which knows how to fight for its honor by means of its improvised warriors and artillery men, against the statement published in the Times, mainly for the purpose of casting a blot in history upon its glorious name, a people which trusts blindly in you not to abandon it to the tyranny of Spain, but to leave it free and independent, even if you make peace with Spain, and I offer fervent prayers

for the ever increasing prosperity of your powerful nation, to which and to you I shall show unbounded gratitude, and shall repay with interest that great obligation.

Your humble servant,  
EMILIO AGUINALDO."

[SENATE DOCUMENT 208, 56TH CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION, PAGE 15.]

*From General Aguinaldo to Mr. Williams, U. S. Consul:*

"AUGUST 1, 1898.

"MR. WILLIAMS,

"DEAR SIR AND DISTINGUISHED FRIEND,—Impressed by the note of July 8th, past, I can only confess that the people of North America have excited, and now excite, the universal admiration not only for the grade of progress and culture to which they have arrived in a very short time, but also for their political constitution, so admirable and inimitable, and for the generosity, honesty, and industry of the men of the Government who have so far ruled the destinies of that great people without an equal in history.

"Above all I thank you sincerely for the kind words which you express in your note quoted above, and I congratulate you with all sincerity on the acuteness and ingenuity which you have displayed in it in painting in an admirable manner the benefits which, especially for me and my leaders, and, in general, for all my compatriots, would be secured by the union of these islands with the United States of America. Ah! that picture, so happy and so finished, is capable of fascinating not only the dreamy imagination of the impressionable Oriental, but also the cold and calculating thoughts of the sons of the North.

"This is not saying that I am not of your opinion. I am fully persuaded that the Filipinos will arrive at the height of happiness and glory if in future they can show with raised heads the rights which to-day are shown by the free citizens of North America. These islands will be in effect one of the richest and pleasantest countries of the globe if the capital and industry of North Americans come to develop the soil.

"You say all this and yet more will result from annexing ourselves to your people, and I also believe the same since you are my friend and the friend of the Filipinos and have said it. But why should we say it? Will my people believe it?

"I, with true knowledge of the character and habits of these people, do not dare assure you of it, since I have only wished to establish a government in order that none of those powers which you

call ambitious should be able to take advantage of our good faith, as has been done in the past by the Spaniards. I have done what they desire, establishing a government in order that nothing important may be done without consulting fully their sovereign will, not only because it was my duty, but also because acting in any other manner they would fail to recognize me as the interpreter of their aspirations and would punish me as a traitor, replacing me by another more careful of his honor and his dignity.

"I have said always, and I now repeat, that we recognize the right of the North Americans to our gratitude, for we do not forget for a moment the favors we have received and are now receiving; but however great those favors may be, it is not possible for me to remove the distrust of my compatriots.

"These say that if the object of the United States is to annex these islands, why not recognize the government established in them, in order in that manner to join with it the same as by annexation?

"Why do not the American generals operate in conjunction with the Filipino generals and, uniting their forces, render the end more decisive?

"Is it intended, indeed, to carry out annexation against the wish of these people, distorting the legal sense of that word? If the revolutionary government is the genuine representative by right and deed of the Filipino people, as we have proved when necessary, why is it wished to oppress instead of gaining their confidence and friendship?

"It is useless for me to present to my compatriots the favors received through Admiral Dewey, for they assert that up to the present the American forces have shown not an active, only a passive co-operation, from which they suppose that the intentions of these forces are not for the best. They assert, besides, that it is possible to suppose that I was brought from Hong Kong to assure these forces by my presence that the Filipinos would not make common cause with the Spaniards, and that they have delivered to the Filipinos the arms abandoned by the former in the Cavite Arsenal, in order to save themselves much labor, fatigue, blood and treasure that a war with Spain would cost.

"But I do not believe these unworthy suspicions. I have full confidence in the generosity and philanthropy which shine in characters of gold in the history of the privileged people of the United States, and for that reason, invoking the friendship which you profess for me and the love which you have for my people, I pray you earnestly, as also the distinguished generals who represent your country in these islands, that you entreat the Government at Washington to recognize the revolutionary government of the Filipinos,

and I, for my part, will labor with all my power with my people that the United States shall not repent their sentiments of humanity in coming to the aid of an oppressed people.

"Say to the Government at Washington that the Filipino people abominate savagery; and that in the midst of their past misfortunes they have learned to love liberty, order, justice, and civil life, and that they are not able to lay aside their own wishes when their future lot and history are under discussion. Say also that I and my leaders know what we owe to our unfortunate country; and that we know how to admire and are ready to imitate the disinterestedness, the abnegation, and the patriotism of the grand men of America, among whom stands pre-eminent the immortal General Washington.

"You and I both love the Filipinos; both see their progress, their prosperity, and their greatness. For this we should avoid any conflict which would be fatal to the interests of both people, who should always be brothers. In this you will acquire a name in the history of humanity and an ineradicable affection in the hearts of the Filipino people."

[SENATE DOCUMENT 208, PAGE 103.]

*"General Aguinaldo's Second Proclamation, the One Publicly Posted."*

[The following proclamation was issued as a counter-proclamation to that of the President of the United States, amended by General Otis and published January 4, 1899. That proclamation was the first which explicitly claimed American sovereignty over the Archipelago, and the first signed by General Otis as "Military-Governor of the Philippine Islands."]

(SUPPLEMENT TO THE HERALD OF THE REVOLUTION—OFFICIAL.)

*"Proclamation from the president of the revolutionary government to my brothers, the Filipinos, all the honorable consuls, and other foreigners."*

"Maj. Gen. E. S. Otis's proclamation published yesterday in the Manila papers obliges me to circulate the present one, in order that all who read and understand it may know of my most solemn protest against said proclamation, for I am moved by my duty and my conscience before God, by my political obligations with my beloved country, by my official and private relations to the North American nations.

"In the above mentioned proclamation, General Otis calls himself 'Military Governor in the Philippines,' and I protest once and a

thousand times, with all the energy in my soul, against such an authority. I solemnly proclaim that I have never had, either at Singapore or here in the Philippines, any verbal or written contract for the recognition of American sovereignty over this cherished soil.

"On the contrary, I say that I returned to these islands, conveyed by an American man-of-war, on the 19th of May of last year, with the firm and clear purpose of fighting the Spaniards in order to reconquer our liberty and independence, and so I expressed myself in the declaration made on the 24th of said month of May. Thus I published it in a proclamation directed to the Philippine people on the 12th of last June, when in my natal town, Kawit, I for the first time unfurled our sacred national flag, as a holy emblem of that sublime aspiration; and lastly, the American general, Merritt, predecessor of Mr. E. S. Otis, has confirmed the same thing in a proclamation addressed to the Philippine people days before the surrender of the town of Manila was proposed to General Jaudenes, which proclamation clearly and decisively states that the land and naval forces of the United States came to give us our freedom and to displace the bad Spanish Government.

"In a word, our countrymen and foreigners are witnesses that the land and naval forces of the United States existing here have recognized by act the belligerency of the Philippines, not only respecting but also doing public honor to the Filipino banner, which triumphantly traversed our seas in view of foreign nations represented here by their respective consuls.

"As in his proclamation General Otis alludes to some instructions issued by His Excellency the President of the United States relating to the administration of affairs in the Philippines, I solemnly protest in the name of God, root and source of all justice and all right, who has visibly acceded me the power to direct my dear brethren in the difficult task of our regeneration, against this intrusion of the United States Government in the administration of these islands.

"In the same manner I protest against such an unexpected act which treats of American sovereignty in these islands in the face of all antecedents that I have in my possession referring to my relations with the American authorities, which are unequivocal testimony that the United States did not take me out of Hong Kong to make war against Spain for their own benefit, but for the benefit of our liberty and independence, to which end said authorities verbally promised me their active support and efficacious co-operation.

"So that you all may understand it, my beloved brothers, it is the principle of liberty and absolute independence that has been our noble

ambition for the purpose of obtaining the desired object, with a force given by the conviction, now very widespread, not to retrace the path of glory that we have passed over.

"EMILIO AGUINALDO.

"MALOLOS, January 5, 1899."

[SENATE DOCUMENT 62, PAGES 432-437.]

**"AGUINALDO'S PROCLAMATION OF JUNE 23, 1898,  
ESTABLISHING THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.**

**No. 3.**

"Don Emilio Aguinaldo y Famy, president of the revolutionary government of the Philippines and general in chief of its army.

"This Government desiring to demonstrate to the Philippine people that one of its ends is to combat with a firm hand the inveterate vices of the Spanish administration, substituting for personal luxury and that pompous ostentation which have made it a mere matter of routine, cumbrous and slow in its movements, another administration more modest, simple, and prompt in performing the public service, I decree as follows:

**"CHAPTER I. OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.**

"*Article I.* The dictatorial government will be entitled hereafter the revolutionary government, whose object is to struggle for the independence of the Philippines until all nations, including the Spanish, shall expressly recognize it, and to prepare the country so that a true republic may be established.

"The dictator will be entitled hereafter president of the revolutionary government.

"*Article II.* Four secretaryships of the government are created—one of foreign affairs, navy and commerce; another of war and public works; another of police and internal order, justice, education and hygiene; and another of finance, agriculture and manufacturing industry.

"The government may increase this number of secretaryships when it shall find in practice that this distribution is not sufficient for the multiplied and complicated necessities of the public service.

"*Article III.* Each secretaryship shall aid the president in the administration of questions concerning the different branches which it comprises.

"At the head of each one shall be a secretary, who shall not be responsible for the decrees of the presidency, but shall sign them with the president to give them authority.

"But if it shall appear that the decree has been promulgated on the proposition of the secretary of the department, the latter shall be responsible conjointly with the president.

"*Article IV.* The secretaryship of foreign affairs will be divided into three bureaus—one of diplomacy, another of navy, and another of commerce.

"The first bureau will study and dispose of all questions pertaining to management of diplomatic negotiations with other powers and the correspondence of the government with them, the second will study

all questions relating to the formation and organization of our navy, and the fitting out of such expeditions as the necessities of the revolution may require; and the third will have charge of everything relating to internal and external commerce, and the preliminary work which may be necessary for making treaties of commerce with other nations.

*"Article V.* The secretaryship of war will be divided into two bureaus—one of war, properly speaking, and the other of public works.

"The first bureau will be sub-divided into four sections—one of campaigns, another of military justice and another of military administration, and another of military health.

"The section of campaigns will have charge of the appointment and formation of the certificates of enlistment and service of all who serve in the revolutionary militia; of the direction of campaigns, the preparation of plans, works of fortification and preparing reports of battles; of the study of military tactics for the army and the organization of the general staff, artillery and cavalry; and, finally, of the determination of all questions concerning the business of campaigns and military operations.

"The section of military justice will have charge of everything relating to courts of war and military tribunals, the appointment of judges and counsel, and the determination of all questions of military justice. The section of military administration will be charged with the furnishing of food and other supplies necessary for the use of the army, and the section of military health will have charge of everything relating to the hygiene and healthfulness of the militia.

*"Article VI.* The other secretaryships will be divided into such bureaus as their branches may require, and each bureau will be subdivided into sections according to the nature and importance of the work it has to do.

*"Article VII.* The secretary will inspect and supervise all the work of his secretaryship and will determine all questions with the president of the government.

"At the head of each bureau will be a director, and in each section an officer provided with such number of assistants and clerks as may be specified.

*"Article VIII.* The president will appoint the secretaries of his own free choice, and in concert with them will appoint all the subordinate officials of each secretaryship.

"In order that in the choice of persons it may be possible to avoid favoritism it must be fully understood that the good name of the country and the triumph of the revolution require the services of persons truly capable.

*"Article IX.* The secretaries may be present at the revolutionary congress, in order that they may make any motion in the name of the president or may be interpolated publicly by any one of the representatives; but when the question which is the object of the motion shall be put to vote, or after the interpolation is ended, they shall leave and shall not take part in the vote.

*"Article X.* The president of the government is the personification of the Philippine people, and in accordance with this idea it shall not be possible to hold him responsible while he fills the office.

"His term of office shall last until the revolution triumphs, unless under extraordinary circumstances he shall feel obliged to offer his

resignation to congress, in which case congress will elect whomsoever it considers most fit.

#### "CHAPTER II. OF THE REVOLUTIONARY CONGRESS.

"*Article XI.* The revolutionary congress is the body of representatives of the provinces of the Philippine Archipelago, elected in the manner prescribed in the decrees of the 18th of the present month.

"Nevertheless, if any province shall not be able as yet to elect representatives because the greater part of its towns shall have not yet been able to liberate themselves from Spanish domination, the government shall have the power to appoint as provisional representatives for this province those persons who are most distinguished for high character and social position in such numbers as are prescribed by the above named decree, provided always that they are natives of the province which they represent or have resided therein for a long time.

"*Article XII.* The representatives having met at the town which is the seat of the revolutionary government, and in the building which may be designated, will proceed to its preliminary labors, designating by plurality of votes a commission composed of five individuals charged with examining documents accrediting each representative, and another commission composed of three individuals who will examine the document which the five of the former commission exhibit.

"*Article XIII.* On the following day the above named representatives will meet again, and the two commissions will read their respective reports concerning the legality of said documents, deciding by an absolute majority of votes on the character of those which appear doubtful.

"This business completed, it will proceed to designate, also by absolute majority, a president, vice-president, and two secretaries who shall be chosen from among the representatives, whereupon the congress shall be considered organized and shall notify the government of the result of the election.

"*Article XIV.* The place where congress deliberates is sacred and inviolable, and no armed force shall enter therein unless the president thereof shall ask therefor in order to establish internal order disturbed by those who can neither honor themselves nor its august functions.

"*Article XV.* The powers of congress are: To watch over the general interest of the Philippine people and the carrying out of the revolutionary laws; to discuss and vote upon said laws; to discuss and approve prior to their ratification treaties and loans; to examine and approve the accounts presented annually by the secretary of finance as well as extraordinary and other taxes which may hereafter be imposed.

"*Article XVI.* Congress shall also be consulted in all grave and important questions the determination of which admit of delay or adjournment; but the president of the government shall have the power to decide questions of urgent character, but in that case he shall give account by message to said body of the decision which he has adopted.

"*Article XVII.* Every representative shall have the power to present to congress any project of a law, and every secretary on the order of the president of the government shall have similar power.

*"Article XVIII.* The sessions of congress shall be public, and only in cases which require reserve shall it have the power to hold secret sessions.

*"Article XIX.* In the order of its deliberations as well as in the internal government of the body, the instructions which shall be formulated by the congress itself shall be observed.

"The president shall direct the deliberations and shall not vote except in case of a tie, when he shall have the casting vote.

*"Article XX.* The president of the government shall not have power to interrupt in any manner the meetings of congress nor embarrass its sessions.

*"Article XXI.* The congress shall designate a permanent commission of justice, which shall be presided over by the auxiliary vice-president or each of the secretaries, and shall be composed of those persons and seven members elected by plurality of votes from among representatives. This commission shall judge, on appeal, the criminal cases tried by the provincial courts, and shall take cognizance of and have original jurisdiction in, all cases against the secretaries of the government, the chiefs of provinces and towns, and the provincial judges.

*"Article XXII.* In the office of the secretary of congress shall be kept a book of honor, wherein shall be recorded special services rendered the country and considered as such by said body. Every Filipino, whether in the military or civil service, may petition congress for notation in said book, presenting duly accredited documents describing the service rendered by him on behalf of the country since the beginning of the present revolution. For extraordinary services which may be rendered hereafter, the government will propose said notation, accompanying the proposal with the necessary documents, justifying it.

*"Article XXIII.* The congress will also grant on the proposal of the government, rewards in money, which can be given only once, to the families of those who were victims of their duty and patriotism as a result of extraordinary acts of heroism.

*"Article XXIV.* The acts of congress shall not take effect until the president of the government orders their fulfilment and execution. Whenever the said president shall be of the opinion that any act is unsuitable, or against public policy, or pernicious, he shall explain to congress the reasons against its execution, and if the latter shall insist on its passage, the president shall have the power to oppose veto under his most rigid responsibility.

### CHAPTER III. OF MILITARY COURTS AND JUSTICE.

*"Article XXV.* When the chiefs of military detachments have notice that any soldier has committed or has perpetrated any act of those commonly considered as military crimes, he shall bring it to the knowledge of the commandant of the zone, who shall appoint a judge and a secretary who shall begin suit in the form prescribed in the instructions dated the 20th of the present month. If the accused shall be of the grade of lieutenant, or higher, the said commandant shall himself be the judge, and if the latter shall be the accused, the senior commandant of the province shall name as judge an officer who holds a higher grade, unless the same senior commandant shall

himself have brought the suit. The judges shall always belong to the class of chiefs.

*"Article XXVI.* On the conclusion of the preliminary hearing the senior commandant shall designate three officers of equal or higher rank to the judge, and the military court shall consist of the said officers, the judge, the councillor, and the president. The latter shall be the commandant of the zone if the accused be of the grade of lieutenant or higher. This court shall conduct the trial in the form customary in the provincial courts, but the judgment shall be appealable to the higher courts of war.

*"Article XXVII.* The superior court shall be composed of six members, who shall hold rank not less than brigadier-generals, and the judge-advocate. If the number of generals present in the capital of the revolutionary government shall not be sufficient, the deficiency shall be supplied by representatives designated and commissioned by congress. The president of the court shall be the general having the highest rank of all; and should there be more than one having equal rank the president shall be elected from among them by absolute majority of votes.

*"Article XXVIII.* The superior court shall have the jurisdiction in all cases affecting the higher commandants, the commandants of zones, and all officers of the rank of major or higher.

*"Article XXIX.* Commit military crime: first, those who fail to grant the necessary protection to foreigners, both in their persons and property, and those who similarly fail to afford protection to hospitals, ambulances, including persons and effects which may be found in possession of one or the other, and those engaged in the service of the same, provided always they commit no hostile act; second, those who fail in the respect due to the lives, money, and jewels of enemies who lay down their arms, and of prisoners of war; third, Filipinos who place themselves in the service of the enemy, acting as spies, or disclosing to them secrets of war and the plans of the revolutionary positions and fortifications, and those who present themselves under a flag of truce without justifying properly their office and their personality; and fourth, those who fail to recognize a flag of truce duly accredited in the form prescribed by international law.

*"Will commit also military crimes: Those who conspire against the unity of the revolutionists, provoking rivalry between chiefs, and forming divisions and armed bands; second, those who solicit contributions without authority of the Government and misappropriate the public funds; third, those who desert to the enemy, or are guilty of cowardice in the presence of the enemy, being armed; and fourth, those who seize the property of any person who has done no harm to the revolution, violate women, and assassinate or inflict serious wounds on unarmed persons, and who commit robberies and arson.*

*"Article XXX.* Those who commit the crimes enumerated will be considered as declared enemies of the revolution, and will incur the penalties prescribed in the Spanish Penal Code, and in the highest degree.

*"If the crime shall not be found in the said code, the offender shall be imprisoned until the revolution triumphs, unless the result of this shall be an irreparable damage which, in the judgment of the tribunal, shall be a sufficient cause for imposing the penalty of death.*

**"ADDITIONAL CLAUSES.**

"The government will establish abroad a revolutionary committee composed of a number not yet determined, of persons most competent in the Philippine Archipelago. This committee will be divided into three delegations: one of diplomacy, another of the navy, and another of the army.

"The delegation of diplomacy will arrange and conduct negotiations with foreign cabinets with a view to the recognition of the belligerency and independence of the Philippines.

"The delegation of the navy will be charged with the studying and organizing of the Philippine navy and preparing the expenditures which the necessities of the revolution may require.

"The delegation of the army will study military tactics and the best form of organization for the general staff, artillery, and engineers, and whatever else may be necessary in order to fit out the Philippine army under the conditions required by modern progress.

"*Article XXXII.* The government will issue the necessary instructions for the proper execution of the present decrees.

"*Article XXXIII.* All the present decrees of the dictatorial government in conflict with the foregoing are hereby annulled.

"Given at Cavite the 23rd of June, 1898.

**EMILIO AGUINALDO."**

OFFICERS OF  
THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION SOCIETY.

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Contributions from one dollar upwards are solicited from any one desiring to aid in defraying expenses, and may be sent to the Treasurer, **WILLIAM H. MC ELWAIN,** 84 Essex Building, Boston.

Persons joining this Society as members are expected :

1. To inform themselves, as fully and as accurately as possible, as to the true state of affairs in the Philippine Islands.

2. To circulate accurate information, by informal conversation, by inducing others to study the facts collected, and by sending to the Secretary the names of people who may be thought to be interested.

Any one desiring to become a member is asked to send his name and address to **L. K. FULLER,** 12 Otis Place, Boston.